

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 303783

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 8196 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 29 DEC

QTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8196

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR EG IS US

SUBJECT: SINAI II: E-1 SITE

REF: TEL AVIV 8168

1. BEN-NATAN TOLD DCM THIS EVENING THAT GENERAL SHAFIR HAD RETURN-
ED FROM TODAY'S SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION AND THAT "EVERY-
THING IS ALL RIGHT." THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A "MISUNDERSTANDING",
BEN-NATAN SAID, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN CLEARED UP. IT HAS BEEN
AGREED THAT HILL ISRAELIS DESIGNATE 720 AND WHICH HAS DIFFERENT
NUMBERS ON U.S. (716?) AND EGYPTIAN MAPS WILL BE SITE OF EGYPTIAN
STATION. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT PARAMETERS OF EGYPTIAN STATION
WOULD BE SAME AS THOSE OF EXISTING ISRAELI STATION. A CIRCLE
LARGER THAN THE ISRAELI AREA HAD BEEN DRAWN ON EACH MAP AND

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IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD BE FREE TO LOCATE

WHEREVER THEY CHOSE WITHIN THAT CIRCLE, ALWAYS PROVIDING THE AREA THEY SELECTED WAS NOT LARGER THAN THE ISRAELI AREA. THE CIRCLE, BAN-NATAN SAID, COVERED THE HILL, ITS SLOPES, AND THE VICINITY.

2. FURTHERMORE, EGYPTIANS WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THE EXISTING ROAD LEADING TO THE HILL UNTIL THEY WERE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A ROAD THEMSELVES. A FINAL DECISION AS TO THE EXACT SITE OF THE EGYPTIAN STATION WOULD BE MADE WITHIN A MONTH AND WOULD BE "WORKED OUT ON PAPER." BEN-NATAN SAID THE EGYPTIANS UNDERSTOOD THAT AT PRESENT WHEN THEY MOVE OUTSIDE THE AGREED AREA THEY MUST OBTAIN ISRAELI APPROVAL.

3. COMMENT: BEN-NATAN WAS CLEARLY OF THE VIEW THAT IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME A SMALL BUT VEXING ISSUE. IF THIS PROVES TRUE, BELIEVE OUR CLEAR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST THIS MORNING MAY HAVE HAD SOME CATALYTIC EFFECT. AMBASSADOR HAS APPOINTMENT WITH GENERAL SIILASVUOU ON TUESDAY WHICH SHOULD HELP COMPLETE THE PICTURE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE MEETING TODAY.

4. NOTE: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO JERUSALEM (EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS) FOR AMBASSADOR.
TOON UNQTE
ROBINSON

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